

Killing of a woman as Sati

***169. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:**

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh a 95 year old woman was killed after her four sons pushed her on to her husband's funeral pyre claiming it to be a "Sati" Ritual;

(b) if so, whether Government will take it up seriously with the Government of Madhya Pradesh as the Chief Minister asserted that this incident could not be prevented as the village was too remote for anyone to act; and

(c) whether Government will issue detailed guidelines to deal with such a situation after taking State Governments in confidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that a criminal case under section 302 (Punishment for murder) and section 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and section 4 of the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 has been registered at Police Station, Jujhar Nagar, District Chhatarpur against 30 accused persons, including the deceased's four sons. So far, 13 accused have been arrested in the case.

The State Government has also informed that it has always desired that all possible steps should be taken by the district administration and police to prevent incident of Sati.

(b) and (c) In view of the existing Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, it is incumbent upon the State Government to take necessary action in such cases. As per Section 17 of the Act, detailed steps are already provided for the State Administration to act upon. These are as follows:—

Obligation of certain persons to report about the commission of offence under this Act.—(1) All officers of Government are hereby required and empowered to assist the police in the execution of the provisions of this Act or any rule or order made there under.

(2) All village officers and such other officers as may be specified by the Collector or the District Magistrate in relation to any area and the inhabitants of such area shall, if they have reason to believe or have the knowledge that sati is about to be, or has been, committed in the area shall forthwith report such fact to the nearest police station.

(3) Whoever contravenes the provision of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and shall also be liable to fine.

In view of the above, no need is felt for separate guidelines to be issued.

Change in CBSE curricula

*170. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the CBSE has added courses, changed the curricula and have announced other changes frequently;

(b) whether CBSE consults experts before making major changes;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite a number of representations the CBSE has not been able to modernise and make efficient the issue of marks certificates and other documents; and

(d) what external advice will be sought by the CBSE to effect changes in its own administrative role and duties?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has changed the curricula based on National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 formulated by NCERT. CBSE introduces new subjects to meet the emerging needs of the students. It also takes new initiatives and makes necessary changes from time to time to improve the quality of education, and to reduce stress on students.

(b) CBSE has an established system for consulting experts before initiating major changes. Several Committees of the Board have experts as members to provide valuable inputs.

(c) No, Sir. CBSE has computerised processing of examination data, and printing of mark-sheets and passing certificates.